EVEL
ONE

PROCESSED
NOV 24 199
STU LIBRARY

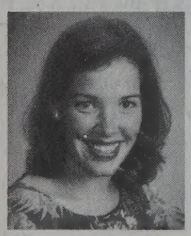
whole Earth newsletter

United Church Board for World Ministries Fall 1997, Vol. ~~XXVIII~~, No. 2

Nine approved for overseas service

Nine persons, three new and six returnees, were appointed for new and continued service by the Personnel Committee of the Common Global Ministries Board in August. They are serving in China, People's Republic of Congo, Haiti, Japan, Taiwan and Turkey. One UCC Stewardship Council staff person is serving as a volunteer in France through June.

Alfred Jones is serving 10 months with the Reformed Church in France while based in Paris, where he will consult with the national church leadership, write for the church's weekly news publication, visit congregations to speak on stewardship and lecture at the Protestant Theological Faculty. A mission interpreter with the Stewardship Council, he is a member of Riverside Church in New York City.

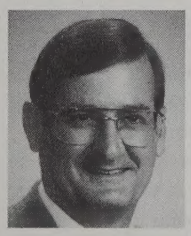


Elizabeth Myer was appointed to a two-year term as a Global Mission Intern with the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH). Her work, which began Oct. 1, includes interpretation and communication between the Council and churches in the U.S. and Canada, administrative tasks at CONASPEH's central office in Port-au-Prince, and youth counseling. She is a member of the Mapleton Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in Alymer West, Ontario, Canada.

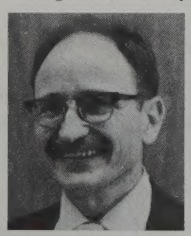
Janice Engsberg returned to China, where she has been serving since 1986, on Sept. 1. She was appointed to serve three more years as professor of international journalism at Xiamen University, Fujian Province. Janice is a member of First Congregational UCC in Lebanon, MO.

Two staff returned to service in Japan. **Susan Adams** returned Sept. 1 to chaplaincy and teaching English for three more years at Keiwa Gakuen High School, Niigata. Her first four years, from 1990-94, were spent teaching in Nishinomiya at Kobe College. She is a member of Union Congregational UCC, St. Louis Park, MN.

Virginia Wilson also teaches at Keiwa Gakuen and returned Sept. 1 for three more years to teach conversational English. She is a member of First Christian Church, Olympia, WA.



Don and Nancy Pittman returned to Taiwan Sept. 15 for further service at Tainan Theological College and Seminary, Tainan, as associate professor and lecturer, respectively. The Pittmans are members of South Hills Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX.



Doug Wallace, who has served in Turkey since 1981, returned Sept. 1 for

(Continued on page 2)

Affirmation awards given

Four persons and two institutions received Awards of Affirmation from the Common Global Ministries Board at General Synod XXI in Columbus in July.

Zaru

The awards are given in recognition of inspirational and courageous ministries of international partners whose testimony, work and witness are seen as a prophetic sign of God's reign. The awards were also bestowed at the Disciples General Assembly this summer.

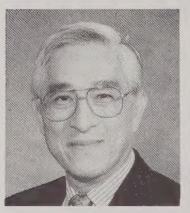
In the Middle East the recipient was Jean Zaru. Both in her official roles as President of the YWCA of Palestine, member of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Interfaith Dialogue, supporter and member of the Quaker Schools in Ramallah, member of the Sabeel Liberation Theology Center, and in her less official role as an eloquent and passionate voice for those who have been made voiceless — Palestinian women and children — she has been a courageous example of Christ's call to reconciliation and justice in a troubled part of the world.

(Continued on page 10)

Also in this issue:

- Scrolls unearthed, p. 8
- Landmine update, p. 3
- OGHS grants, p. 4
- Whitemans speak on global warming, p. 5
- Integrity of creation, p. 6
- Kids' resources, p.11
- Open arms, hearts, p. 12

Message from the EVP



Strategic economics

By David Hirano

At the meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board in April, the directors affirmed three directions — converting economics to the service of God, building human communities, and faith development. At the November meeting of the Board of Directors, further work will be done and a strategic plan adopted.

It seems that economics is a key player in justice-making in the world. Why is it that the United States consumes so much of the world's resources? Why is it that transnational corporation chief executive officers make so much money? Why is it that world poverty grows while corporate profits go up?

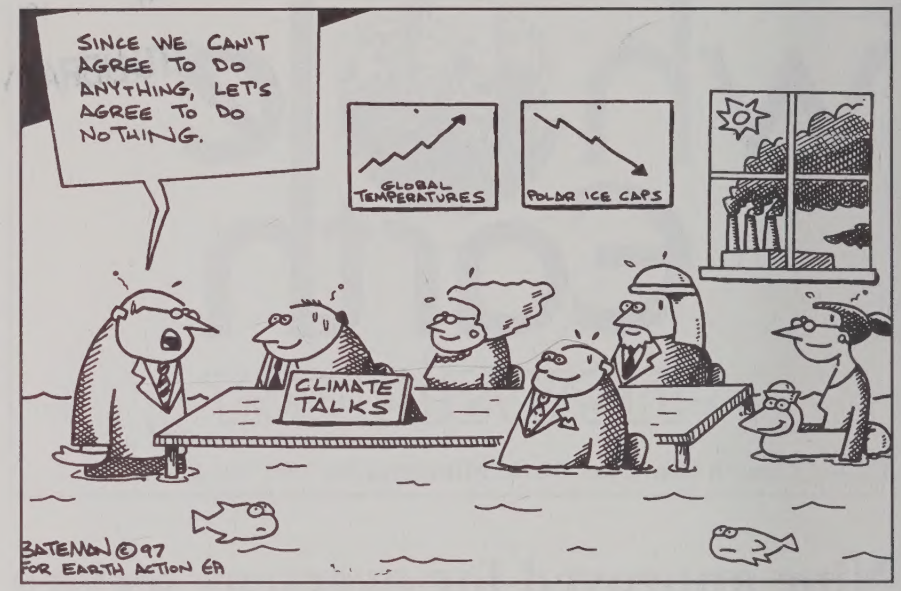
Similarly, it would seem that there is enough technology and food to eliminate hunger. Recently, a number of Air Force planes have crashed. The cost of one of them would have made a substantial contribution toward easing poverty in the world. There doesn't seem to be a will among the nations which consume most of the world's resources to end world poverty.

Jesus always addressed the needs of the poor. When we read the gospels and look at Jesus' life, there is an identification with the poor and a ministry with the poor. Where are the poor in our churches? To whom are our churches captive? The members of the United Church of Christ are among the richest in the world — yet our commitment to end poverty is rarely seen apart from soup kitchens and pantries.

It has been said, "The poor will always be with us." At the same time, God's mission impels us to work with the poor, to be in solidarity with them, and to love them.

Over the almost 200 years of our existence, the United Church Board for World Ministries has been engaged in ministry around the world, much of it with the poor. Given the strategic direction, "Converting economics to the service of God," my question is, How can we best utilize the resources which the Board has to encourage corporations to be more responsible and responsive to the needs of the poor?

The gift of Ted Turner to the United Nations of $1 billion dollars shocked me. That one person has that much to give away is enough; and that one would give to the United Nations was still another matter. He challenged other corporate giants to do as he did. I hope that will happen, and that we can find ways to move others to give so that the world might experience justice and peace.


SINCE WE CAN'T AGREE TO DO ANYTHING, LET'S AGREE TO DO NOTHING.
GLOBAL TEMPERATURES
POLAR ICE CAPS
CLIMATE TALKS
BATENDA ©97 FOR EARTH ACTION EA

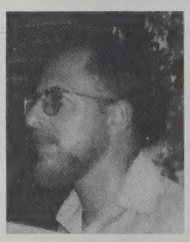
SEE RELATED GLOBAL warming stories pages 5, 6, 7.

Appointments *(continued from p. 1)*

three more years as a librarian at the Uskudar American School, Istanbul. Doug is a member of the Congregational UCC, Martinez, CA.

Nestor Bompaka was recognized as an overseas Associate. He is serving a three-year term as a missionary with the Disciples Community of Zaire, assigned to new church development in Brazzaville, People's Republic of Congo.

Van der Water heading UCCSA



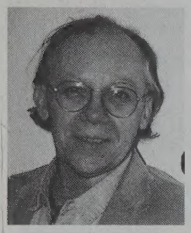
The Rev. Desmond van der Water, one of six overseas members of the Common Global Ministries Board, was unanimously elected by 192 delegates as the new General Secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa during the 29th Assembly of the UCCSA held in Gaborone, Botswana. He succeeds the Rev. Sam Arends, immediate past UCCSA executive, who nominated van der Water for the post.

This and other information pertaining to Global Ministries can be found on the UCC Home Page <http://www.ucc.org>. Visitors logged on to the UCC Home Page will find a direct link to the Disciples Home Page <www.disciples.org/dom/index.htm>, and vice versa.

Continuing the Missionary Herald founded in 1805, Whole Earth Newsletter is published three times a year by the United Church Board for World Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., OH 44115, whose work is made possible by financial support of Our Church's Widerr Mission of the United Church of Christ. No reproduction or usage restrictions. Managing Editor, Helen M. Hayes; Editor, Sandra J. Rooney. Start-up subscription $2 to above address.

The U.S. role in the conference to ban landmines

By Gary Hoff, Program Associate, East Asia and the Pacific Office



When the United States reversed its position and sent delegates to the international conference to ban landmines in Oslo, Norway, in August, the public response was positive. After all, President Clinton had declared in May 1996 that he was "launching an international effort to ban antipersonnel landmines." And Clinton claimed he displayed a dummy landmine on his Oval Office desk to remind him of all the suffering in the world.

But it soon became apparent the U.S. stance had not really changed. Within days of arrival the delegation was lobbying for a much weaker treaty — one that would recognize certain geographic exceptions like Korea, allow the use of so-called "smart mines" which (ideally) detonate at a given time, and allow other loopholes which would permit the U.S. to respond to public pressure and sign on to the treaty without making significant changes in its military policy.

"At least 109 governments have committed to a complete ban of antipersonnel landmines. The U.S. is not among them."

The Oslo delegations were meeting to draft a treaty for ratification in Ottawa in December. At least 109 governments have committed to a complete ban of antipersonnel landmines. The U.S. is not among them. Instead, the U.S. has pursued a more formal path through the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. There, negotiations have stalled because of intransigence by Russia, China, India and Pakistan. None of those countries are fully involved in the Ottawa Process, a fact the U.S. delegation calls a "fatal flaw" in the treaty.

Chief U.S. negotiator Eric Newsom explained, ". . .the American position reflects. . .that this treaty is not going to have universal participation. We are going to be coping with a world in which we are giving up our landmines and many other countries are not." Supporters of a total ban believe worldwide pressures will make manufacturing, exporting or using landmines anathema to all nations.

Many observers feel the real roadblock for the U.S. is Korea. For decades, the American military has relied upon minefields as one of many deterrents against a North Korean surprise attack across the 38th parallel. Secretary of Defense William Perry claimed, "If we simply remove those antipersonnel landmines, it is likely that North Korea could overrun Seoul before we could finally turn the invasion around. (This would) entail the loss of tens of thousands of soldiers and perhaps hundreds of thousands of civilians."

". . .military specialists believe any attack by the north would be doomed to failure whether or not landmines are involved. . . ."

Seoul is less than 40 miles below the Demilitarized Zone. The Pentagon's strategy of defense would apparently include scattering "smart" mines from airplanes across the North Koreans' narrow attack fronts. But military specialists believe any attack by the north would be doomed to failure whether or not landmines are involved, and question the veracity of Pentagon computer casualty projections.

Lt. Gen. (U.S. Army, retired) James F. Hollingsworth, a former Corps Commander in South Korea (1973-76), responded to the Pentagon's argument, "While there have been significant changes in both sides' capabilities since (1976), I feel confident that my assessment of the limited role that antipersonnel landmines would play in deterring and defeating North Korea is still accurate." Then he added another issue to the equation. "In consideration of the certain prospect of the flood of civilian refugees in this area," he said, "and the fluidity and rapid response needs of our own counterattacking forces, the use of scatterable mines, 'smart' or not, would be a game plan for disaster." Hollingsworth also pointed out that the proposed Ottawa treaty's 10-year implementation period would give the Pentagon considerable time to put into effect a defense strategy not dependent on landmines in place.

"Few other countries have supported the U.S. delegation's strategy to weaken the treaty."

Few other countries have supported the U.S. delegation's strategy to weaken the treaty. Advocates for a total ban say it is more important to have a strong treaty that nations with reservations can join later than a weak one full of loopholes. Norway's deputy foreign minister said, "We look forward to. . .debate with the United States delegation, but we cannot yield on a total and absolute ban."

The UCBWM has actively campaigned for a total landmine ban with no exceptions. More than 15,000 members of the UCC and the Disciples have signed petitions urging the U.S. government to commit to a total ban. On July 25, 1997, UCBWM Executive Vice President David Hirano presented these petitions to the Director for Defense Policy and Arms Control of the National Security Council in Washington, D.C.

UCC PRESIDENT PAUL SHERRY and the Very Rev. Pablo Oden Marichal, President of the Council of Churches in Cuba, celebrate the affirmation of partnership of the Council and the UCC which was approved at General Synod XXI in July. The resolution celebrates the Cuban churches' courage in defending the legitimacy of the ministry of churches within a revolutionary and socialist society, their influence on the Cuban government's recognition of the importance of the relationship of Cuban Protestant churches with church partners around the world, and the Cuban Ecumenical Council's efforts in assisting the churches as they try to alleviate the effects of the U.S. economic embargo.

Delegates also approved an affirmation of partnership with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. The Armenian Church, which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, was cited for its ecumenical spirit; for maintaining a faithful presence and witness in Lebanon during the long civil war there, and its refusal to be drawn into sectarian conflict; and for being a faithful part of the Armenian nation, experiencing both the tragedy of genocide and the miracle of rebirth and resurrection of the nation, including establishment of the Republic of Armenia.

CWS Hotline: Call 1-800/456-1310

Sharing life, hope
(Recent OGHS grants)

One Great Hour of Sharing continues to minister in emergencies throughout the world. Through your gifts to this offering, immediate response and support for long-term rehabilitation is present in every major disaster occurring around the globe. Directed gifts make their mark as well. Some recent support for emergencies follows. For more information, contact the Rev. Linda Petrucelli, Executive for the Global Sharing of Resources, at 212/870-2283, fax 212/932-1236, or <petrucel@ucc.org>.

- Conditions in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (the former Zaire) following the fall of exiled Zairean dictator Mobotu Sese Seko have stabilized to a degree. Church World Service (CWS) has been targeting assistance in the areas of farming, health and nutrition, internally displaced populations, and vulnerable groups. Local churches, church agencies and non-governmental structures will channel the assistance through established partners.

- In May an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale left 4,000 dead, 6,000 seriously injured and 50,000 homeless in **Khorasan Province, Iran**. CWS's Middle East partner, the Middle East Council of Churches, is purchasing relief supplies in local markets and coordinating and monitoring distribution with the International Red Crescent Society. Relief assistance will be aimed at large families with children, survivors without shelter, and persons who have not yet benefitted from relief aid. Equitable distribution to the most vulnerable survivors — regardless of race, gender, religion or ethnic background — is the goal.

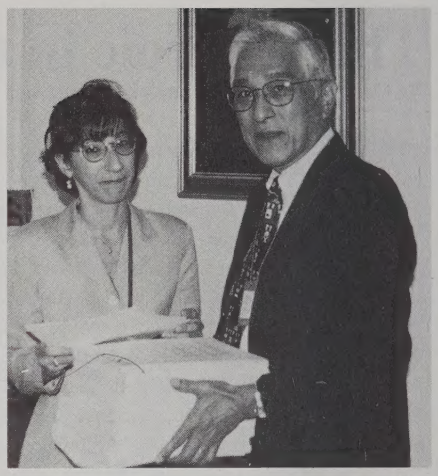
- Through the gifts of generous UCC persons, there is new hope in conflict-ridden Bosnia. A mobile dental van staffed by volunteer dentists is expanding free care for refugee children. Nasa Djeca, a program which trains teenage girls in weaving, knitting, sewing and other job-related skills, helps them rebuild lives torn apart by war.

- There was great concern and response to the **Midwest/South Storms and Floods of 1997**. You will be glad to know that OGHS sharing and directed gifts helped support an interim minister at a stricken Minnesota church. Your contributions also enabled several new disaster interfaith groups such as the one organized by Dean Griffith in New Richmond, OH. The Richmond interfaith group served as ombudspeople for their town's residents, assisted in development, coordinated aid groups, linked town and county unmet needs groups, worked with the town planning council and commission on a residential masterplan and matched projects with volunteers. OGHS aid also allowed the Federated Church in Fargo, ND, to purchase a badly needed new computer, and the Northern Plains Conference to hire a director for the unmet needs task force. Funds were sent to CWS to support and develop interfaith groups so they can respond and organize the religious community to be present in disaster.

- The latest cyclone in **Bangladesh** was a devastating one. Contributions to OGHS helped persons such as Aung Ma Chin, 60, who spent the night of May 20 in the Cyclone Shelter-cum-Rakhain Community Center close to her home. This shelter is run by the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh, one of our partners in Southern Asia. CCDB volunteers, trained in disaster preparedness thanks to funds from CWS, to whom the UCBWM sent support, had already warned villagers to move into the shelter. The next morning, Mrs. Ma Chin fashioned a makeshift hut from the ruins. She is not discouraged because she knows life in the coastal zone involves continual rebuilding.

Silver to replace iron?

Patriarch Alexei II, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, said there is danger that a new "silver curtain" further dividing rich and poor will replace the "iron curtain" that divided Europe into east and west during the cold war. The warning was issued at the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in June in Graz, Austria, with more than 10,000 in attendance.



THE REV. DAVID HIRANO, UCBWM Executive Vice President, delivered more than 15,000 petitions to ban anti-personnel landmines to the White House. Receiving the petitions is Marilyn di Giacobbe, religious liaison for President Clinton.

Study trips...

The Plowshares Institute is offering a seminar to South Africa/Zimbabwe in 1998. A National Council of Churches trip to Indonesia and East Timor is in the planning stages for August 1998.

In addition to truth and reconciliation from a global perspective, the Plowshares trip (Aug. 24 to Sept. 4) will provide special preparation for delegates and visitors to the Festival in Solidarity With Women, and the World Council of Churches General Assembly. Throughout the continent there is a crisis of concern for women, children and the economy. In South Africa, participants will be exposed to dramatic proposals for change in land reform, education, housing, development and health. In Zimbabwe, they will be immersed in the role of the church and to social, political and economic issues. Application deadline is May 1.

For information contact Plowshares at P.O. Box 243, Simsbury, CT 06070, 860/651-4304 or fax 860/651-4305.

An ecumenical opportunity tour to Indonesia and East Timor, with a church-to-church focus, will be held next August. The trip is being organized through the Church World Service Southern Asia Working Group to introduce churches in the U.S. to churches in that part of Southern Asia, and to promote the ecumenical study of Indonesia (the Friendship Press study theme for 1998).

For further information contact Betty Tankersley at the Global Ministries Southern Asia Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 16th Fl., New York, NY 10115-0109, 212/870-2838.

How We See It From Here

***Jan and Karl Whiteman** serve in the Marshall Islands, 2,100 low islands and atolls in the central Pacific — some only a few feet above sea level — that cover an ocean expanse the size of the U.S. but with a land mass less than that of Rhode Island. The people there, some who live no more than three to six feet above sea level, are experiencing loss of life and homes brought on by tidal surges that occur with no warning. The Whitemans report that the Gospel (brought by 150 years ago by Congregational missionaries) is "the central part of (the islanders') life and existence." But it is an existence threatened by global warming, a phenomenon still going largely unaddressed in the global political climate.*

K. Whiteman

J. Whiteman

People are scared. They may not understand the scientific reasons for the effects of global warming, but it is close to their heart. The possibility of their existence being wiped out and their country obliterated by the rising ocean is frightful. Pacific Islanders fret not only about whether their countries will exist in the future, but also about changes they see in the climate today. For all the scientific uncertainty about global warming, they (and we) insist that the weather has been getting stranger in recent months as well as years. It has produced some unprecedented tidal surges and unpredictable seasons. It now rains in the dry season and we have droughts in the rainy season.

Industrialized countries such as the U.S. are responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions, and they are reluctant to curb industry much while the scientific jury is still out on the seriousness of the effects. For example, Australian Prime Minister John Howard was recently quoted as saying, "I understand there are concerns but they must understand that this is an issue that directly affects jobs and the living standards of all Australians," while addressing the meeting of the South Pacific Forum when asked about his nation's opposition to binding target dates for reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse emissions. The U.S. endorses the idea of legally binding cutbacks to be adopted late in 1997 in an international conference in Japan, but only by 2010, and with various conditions. In the meantime, America's industrial carbon dioxide emissions are growing by 8 percent per year according to several environmental group reports.

This type of attitude by the "Big Boys" annoys the island nations, who argue that by the time the jury reaches a verdict on the seriousness of the problem, they may only be visible at low tide. The president of Kiribati recently made this comparison: "It's like little ants making a home on a leaf floating in a pond and the elephants go to drink and roughhouse in the water. The problem isn't the ants' behavior. It's a problem of how to convince the elephants to be more gentle."

"The problem isn't the ants' behavior. It's a problem of how to convince the elephants to be more gentle."

We have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters in the Pacific to speak up within the world community about the effects of global warming on these island nations. It is our duty to advocate, educate and act in response to their cries for help — before they are no more.

*Missionaries **Betty and Ken Frank** and their children Ian and Irene live in Izmir, Turkey, one of a number of Mediterranean cultures that have ancient techniques for warding off covetousness — including blue beads in the shape of an eye which are applied to cars, houses, babies and many other items for protection. Both Muslims and Christians well grounded in their faith condemn the evil eye bead business as superstition, the Franks report, but the phenomenon led them to examine the tenth commandment from the perspective of living in a Turkish culture.*

Ken, Betty Frank

"Thou shalt not covet." But what is there about covetousness that makes it wrong? I've always thought this commandment said it was wrong because it makes things bad between you and God. To want what the next person has for yourself is something you shouldn't do. It creates a potent mixture of greed and jealousy. It destroys your soul. At the same time, it seems to be the most natural feeling in the world to notice what your neighbor has and want it for yourself. That's what oils the wheels of capitalism. Hooray for covetousness! Where would the U.S. economy be without it? The tenth commandment is rather alien for us middle class North Americans. That's how it looks from one modern, individualist, materialist perspective.

"The tenth commandment is rather alien for us middle class North Americans."

Let's look at this commandment from the perspective of the majority of the human race. Their coveting can't be eased by money. Their jealousy and greed may only fester. But the awful thing is what covetousness does to human relations. If your neighbors know you're coveting their things, then their souls are in as much danger as yours. It's the danger of pride, of knowing you've got something not everyone can have. Of course a community of the coveting and the proud isn't very healthy or godly.

Mediterranean cultures call the coveting eye the "evil eye" because of the social havoc it creates. People do what they can to deflect the evil eye, the eye of covetousness. Does someone tell you they admire something of yours? Do they eye it? Then give it to them immediately! Don't let that thing be a reason for greed or jealousy between you. It will also help your relationships if you don't brag about what you own. Or, if you're not the owner, don't praise what someone else owns. In fact, talk it down; it's ugly, it's useless, it's not all that great. Some people even spit, as if just to mouth the words is disgusting. You don't want to be accused of covetousness, that poisoner of relations.

***Barbara de Souza**, who labors in Brazil in a ministry of health care and empowering women in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, is currently in the U.S. on home assignment, although she worries about being away from her ministry.*

de Souza

The public health system is in collapse here, and now there are so many private company health plans appearing which makes the importance of a good health system for the poor furnished by the government of less concern. Now the government has invited foreign health plans like Blue Cross to come in! All of this out of reach of the poor women with whom I work and their families. So there is a need for health educators in the

(Continued on page 8)

Issue Perspective: For the integrity of creation

Every day when I walk in Riverside Park in New York City with my girlfriend and our respective dogs, it never ceases to amaze me the quiet interaction that humans, animals and flora share in that space. While there, I realize clearly that we are on this planet together — as intended by our Creator.

Martin Luther King Jr., during a Christmas sermon in 1967, very eloquently stated this idea when he said, "All life is interrelated. We are all caught in an escapable network of mutuality, tied in a simple garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality." This also reminds me of an ancient saying — "When a butterfly flaps its wings in Beijing, the ripple effect will affect the wind pattern in New York." — Ali Nebot

That all of the earth community matters is stated clearly in the Bible. But it seems that human beings, created by God, have chosen to misread the biblical text where God commands them to be co-creators and co-sustainers of God's creation. In the first creation narrative we find God's command to those created in God's divine image — man and woman, humankind — to join the Creator in the creative process (1:28). In this narrative, God's first words to human beings pertain to their relationship to the rest of creation, and not to their Creator. Those words of command have been translated in "to have dominion" and "to subdue the earth."

Within the context in which these words have been pronounced, biblical scholars have advised that they should be understood in terms of God's relationship to God's creation. God is calling humankind to exercise power over the rest of creation in the same way God would exercise it: as caregivers and nurturers. By no means should it be taken as a license for exploitation. It is a call to good stewardship, not only by sustaining it with care and nurture, but also allowing for sustainability of God's creation.

The command to "subdue the earth" should be understood here in terms of an agrarian society. It pertains to the cultivation of the earth. It should be understood as a command to make the earth produce at its full capacity. It is a command that calls humankind to be accountable to God for what has been entrusted to them — the rest of God's creation. It is a command to bring the world to its fullest potential.

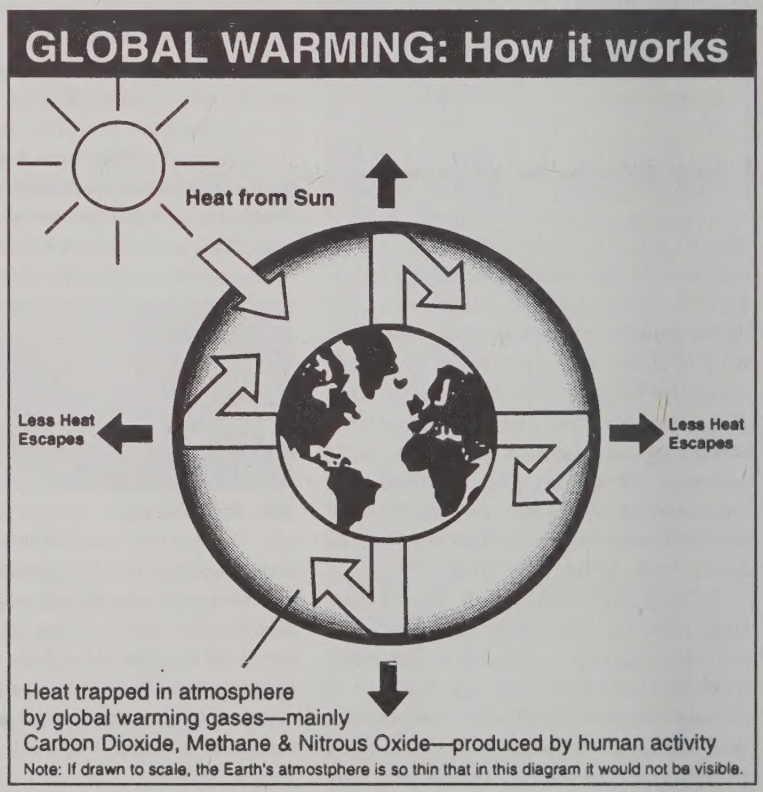
It is a command to bring the world to its fullest potential.

Although this command places human beings as co-creators with God, God has to constantly remind us that God is the Creator, and even when human beings misinterpret or misuse this position, God continues to sustain, enliven and redeem the whole of God's creation. Gen. 9:12-13 indicates God's covenant with "all flesh that is on the earth."

For centuries humankind has chosen to ignore this postulate. In the name of modernism, progress and development, humanity plundered the earth's resources to a point that — in modern times — earth's vital signs are revealing a planet in need of intensive care. (See related article by Jan and Karl Whiteman on page 5.)

In 1972, an historic Stockholm Conference on the Environment gave the world the signal that our planet was terribly sick. The maintenance of its critical life support system had reached a point that needed the immediate attention of the highest levels of governments. This conference identified several problems, including pollution and consumption.

Twenty years later in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the largest-ever gathering of government leaders and NGOs met for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (popularly known as the Earth Summit) and focused attention on environmental problems as never before. At that time, it was clear that the problems identified in Stockholm had grown from bad to worse. Life and human well being was being threatened by global pollution. Participants learned that every day nearly one billion people in urban areas were breathing air with unacceptable levels of pollution, over 100 million tons of sulphur dioxide, and more than 125 million tons of carbon dioxide (the main factor in global warming).


GLOBAL WARMING: How it works
Heat from Sun
Less Heat Escapes
Less Heat Escapes
Heat trapped in atmosphere by global warming gases—mainly Carbon Dioxide, Methane & Nitrous Oxide—produced by human activity
Note: If drawn to scale, the Earth's atmosphere is so thin that in this diagram it would not be visible.

In Rio, leaders from 170 countries adopted a common global strategy called Agenda 21. It envisions a future in which the well being of our planet and all its inhabitants is at the center of attention. The civil soci-

One of the five Guiding Principles that helps direct the policies of the Common Global Ministries Board states, "Relying upon God's grace, we commit ourselves to share in God's healing of God's continuing creation." This clearly signals the vision of a sustainable world and the commitment of the church to continue to be a responsible steward of the earth and everyone and every living thing on it and in it.

Who is responsible?

KEY FACTS

- The 10 hottest years on record have all occurred since 1980.
- Over the last century, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 25%, the level of nitrous oxide by 19% and the level of methane by 100%. These are the three major global warming gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels.
- Since 1900, the Earth's average surface temperature has risen by between 0.3 and 0.6 degrees C. By 2100, it could rise by as much as 3.5 degrees C—a comparable shift in temperature as between today and the last ice age.
- Melting ice caps and glaciers could lead to a sea level rise of up to one metre by 2100. This would drown entire nations, and radically alter the world map.
- Scientists say the world needs to cut its emissions of global warming gases by between 50% and 70% just to stabilise the level of gases in the atmosphere. But emissions of these gases are projected to continue rising for decades.

"Key Facts" and "Global Warming" illustrations courtesy of Earth-Action, 30 Cottage St., Amherst, MA 01002.

ety (composed of citizens groups, NGOs and social movements) looked at the Earth Summit as a source of hope for a new global partnership that will bring humanity back from the brink of ecological catastrophe. Among the representatives of the civil society was a delegation of 52 members of the United Church of Christ who were advocating in favor of Agenda 21. At the heart of the Agenda was the commitment from developed countries to cut their consumption patterns and to spend 0.7% of their gross national product on official development assistance (ODA) to the developing world. The vision of sustainable development, elaborated in Agenda 21, is centered on three fundamental challenges to be addressed on a global scale:

* **Current patterns of consumption and production must be changed in a sustainable direction;**
* **Population growth must be reduced by measures that also lessen poverty; and**
* **We must achieve a fair global distribution of available resources.**

Unfortunately, five years after Rio not much of this has been accomplished. From June 23-27, 1997, the U.N. General Assembly called a special session to review the implementation of Agenda 21. The reality faced by all participants was a harsh one. The global environment has gone further downhill, and the aid and technology transfer from the developed world to developing countries never materialized. In fact, ODA spending has actually decreased to 0.27% — a far cry from Rio's promises.

Earth Summit+5, as this year's special session has been called, ended with governments failing to make immediate commitments. There was no consensus in issuing a political statement.

But not all was negative. NGOs and other members of the civil society took the opportunity to network, develop strategies and recommit themselves to continue the struggle for a sustainable future for all. In June, what emerged as the most high profile and controversial of all the issues was climate change. Decisions taken on countries' emissions will have substantial implications on limits or reductions on the quality of energy use. We in the United States have a crucial role to play. While we have only four percent of the world's population, we emit 23 percent of the world's greenhouse gases.

We in the United States have a crucial role to play. While we have only four percent of the world's population, we emit 23 percent of the world's greenhouse gases.

This year in December in Kyoto, Japan, governments will hold an international climate conference — the most significant since Rio's. They will decide what target will be set next for industrialized countries to reduce their emissions of the industrial gases that are causing climate change. They will be discussing how to approach a long-term solution. Public pressure is essential to make them act responsibly.

In the final chapter of his book *The Bible Code*, Michael Drosnin alerts us that he has deciphered a catastrophe approaching earth from outer space: a meteor that will hit our planet in 2006. If we do not take responsibility for our way of life as individuals and as a nation, we will find out that what we throw away comes back to harm us, the earth, and her creatures. It may not be a meteor, but it could be climate changes.

We cannot let our world be destroyed; we cannot simply wait. We must act!

C. Alicia Nebot, Associate
Global Education & Advocacy

Raquel Rodriguez, Program Associate
Latin America/Caribbean Office

Please write to President Clinton and your two U.S. senators to strongly urge them to support —

1. A 20% reduction in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by the year 2005;

2. Ending the huge government subsidies for production of fossil fuel and nuclear energy; and

3. Increased programs for energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy.

The Scrolls of Miss Emily Hartwell

By Gary Hoff

Two scrolls in Chinese characters (or "Honorary Boards" as they were called in the past) were presented to Emily S. Hartwell in December 1918 in Foochow, Fukien Province, China. They were also accompanied by medals honoring her good deeds.

According to an article printed in a 1919 issue of the *Missionary Herald* (a forerunner of *Whole Earth Newsletter*), the scrolls were paraded through the streets of Foochow, together with testimonials and gifts, and accompanied by bands of the Fukien governor and the Salt Bureau, and taken to Miss Hartwell's house. There under a large grandstand the governor, the American and British consuls, and other Chinese and foreign dignitaries delivered speeches praising Miss Hartwell's missionary work.

The large orange scroll was presented by the president of the new Chinese republic. Roughly translated, the characters state, "Joy in good works. Delight in giving alms." The slightly smaller scroll — which is light tan in color and appears to be water-spotted — was given to Miss Hartwell by the governor of Fukien, and is translated, "Your merit is great in education and nurture." The governor also delivered a "gracious and cordial" speech on the occasion honoring the China-born missionary.

Miss Hartwell was born in Foochow in 1859 to the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Hartwell. She graduated from Mount Holyoke Seminary (now Mt. Holyoke College) and began serving with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in China in 1884. She established an orphanage, schools to teach agriculture, carpentry and masonry, and a girls' industrial school teaching weaving and sewing. She was a representative of the Women's Board of the Interior and also taught at Foochow College. Twice, Miss Hartwell was recognized for her work in providing relief to the poor — once during a serious flood and again during the Chinese Revolution. The governor of Fukien said of her, "Although she is an American, she lives among us here in Foochow as a Fukienese, looking on us as her own."

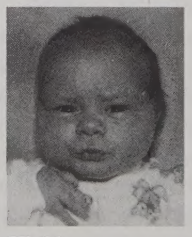
She worked as an ABCFM missionary until her retirement in 1929 and remained in Foochow until October 1937. Miss Hartwell passed away in Oberlin, OH, in 1951, at the age of 92. One of her last requests was that prayers continue for her beloved orphans of Foochow.

Miss Hartwell's scrolls were recently unearthed in the UCBWM archives in New York by the Rev. Dr. David Stowe, former UCBWM Executive Vice President. On one of the scrolls, a gift from her students and sent to New York by one of Miss Hartwell's nieces, was pinned the actual medal presented to her by the president of the Republic of China in 1918.

How we see (from p. 5)

poor communities, and these women, once trained, do a FANTASTIC job!

But what is really keeping me busy is the fact that now that the (teachers' manual she wrote) is out, things are popping. I am being called to many places to talk about this health course as well as to train nurses and social workers as to how to give it using the manuals to train health educators among the poor. The Methodist Church has called me in to train some 40 women and help them in their training of people for their new program EVANGMED. This is just not the year for me to be leaving for such a long time! But how could we have known that this health course would be so popular, all because of the wonderful women who studied with me, finished the course and are doing such fantastic work in their communities that it has brought attention to others, including doctors.



GROWING FAMILIES — Joshua Michael Weible arrived March 17 to parents Diane and Tim Weible, missionaries to Japan, while they were on home assignment in the U.S. Joshua, his parents and sisters Rebecca and Sarah, have returned to the Tono area of Japan where Tim and Diane are involved in rural evangelism.

Kristen Lee, missionary in South Africa, and Matthew Pigman, are parents of Sophie Lee Pigman, who was born April 15, 1997. Kristen does writing and research, and serves as assistant to the general secretary, of the Center for Multiparty Democracy in Durban .

Little Nowa Barnabas Bronner came into the world May 26 to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bronner. Scott is an Associate, teaching at Seibi Gakuen in Yokohama, Japan .

Witnessing intentionally in Washington, D.C.

By the Council of Theological Students

In April the Council of Theological Students (CTS) journeyed to Washington, D.C., to visit their elected representatives and discuss issues which they encountered on a trip to Israel/Palestine in 1996. Here are some of their observations.

Karen Gale, Pacific School of Religion: It was 7:30 and I was late. Being the only member from the West Coast, I am late to every gathering. I hustled down the lively streets of the Adams Morgan District, finally finding The Red Sea, our designated Ethiopian restaurant. Breathlessly I climbed the stairs to the upper room, knowing this was only the beginning of a non-stop work weekend. Upon reaching the top I was greeted by old smiles, new faces and plates of njala. It was the start of an incredible weekend — part reunion, part new beginning, all toward a vision of global justice and peace — the very essence of CTS.

Derek Duncan, Harvard Divinity School: We arrived in D.C. to do "the business" of CTS, still defining what that business was. One particularly compelling definition was to be "intentional witnesses." One year ago, many of us witnessed those struggling for peace in Israel and Palestine. Though we were searching for sympathetic ears, I sensed in the cold corridors of

"...in the cold corridors of Congress a resignation that deafened all appeals for justice."

Congress a resignation that deafened all appeals for justice. What was the good in witnessing when no one was listening? Yet at the Holocaust Museum the next day I looked up to see Isaiah 43:10 etched into a black marble wall: "You are my witnesses." No matter who hears us, such witnessing is the "business" of us all.

Pat Nicholas, Yale Divinity School: I have visited D.C. before as a tourist. But this trip was very different. Instead of being wandering visitors we looked up our state reps and purposely strode down corridors to share our point of view. We were greeted with various degrees of welcome and interest, but for the most part our concerns were listened to and recorded. This has been an empowering experience that will forever change my concept of powerlessness into action and responsibility, and highlight my personal engagement in the democratic process.

Eugenia Althen, Eden Theological Seminary: Sharon Ringe's discussion of the Jubilee celebration involving forgiveness and release is an incredibly powerful perspective that opens new areas of opportunity and responsibility. (Ringe, UCC clergy, is a professor at Wesley Seminary.) I had never thought of global economics in the light of Jesus' wisdom, and I'm anxious to take the message back to Eden and to local church. If the possibility of international debt cancellation could be carried out, surely the benefits would exceed anything imaginable. If not, we may see disasters beyond anything we can imagine. What do we wish to achieve? What choice offers the best opportunity for the greatest grace?

Tamara Kanatzar, Phillips Theological Seminary: No matter where I am, God always opens a door of blessing! This weekend was no exception. While at the Holocaust Museum, I was particularly moved by a wall which represents the tombstones of those who died during

"...a responsibility to ensure that all of God's Children experience life abundantly."

the Holocaust. Each tombstone represents a Child of God—a once living, breathing person. I was reminded that life is precious, and we all have a responsibility to ensure that all of God's Children experience life abundantly. Too often we forget the suffering of others. Let us remember, and not be content to stand by as spectators.

Carolyn Hendrixson, United Theological Seminary: What I will remember is not what we did but how we did it. Ten theological students from 10 seminaries came together in the space of four days and lived together as one body. Our decisions flowed from mutual respect and consensus. We supported each other in Congressional visits, noticing the differences of our regions — the rapid Spanish of Puerto Rico, the Minnesota reticence, the casual banter of northern California. Peace, our focus for the weekend, was lived out in our group's awareness that we do not meet alone. We meet in the presence of God

Anne Cormier, Lancaster Theological Seminary: I witnessed the power of the "bread of life." It was in our concerns expressed to our representatives about welfare reform legislation. It was in Sharon Ringe's stories of South American women who must feed their starving babies "newspaper cakes." At the Holocaust Museum I heard of survivors whose hope was only restored by sharing bread, and I then saw a sandwich given to one of the many homeless we saw. We closed our experience by sharing the "bread of life," realizing that it bears witness to the many ways life-giving bread is denied and calls us to respond. As future ministers we are called to educate others to the responsibilities of being part of an interdependent humanity, so that the spirit and action of Jubilee and justice may become the substance of discipleship and the means toward global unity.

Also participating in the Washington trip were Stephanie Lanza, Vanderbilt Divinity School; Carlos Negron, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico; Royce Tanaka, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; and Tawnee Walling, Union Theological Seminary. The CTS program is coordinated by the World Ministries in the U.S. and Canada Program headed by Terry Provance.

Book by former missionary

"Love is like the mango — ripe, sweet, everywhere. Everyone eat the mango. Everyone love."

"It was interesting how the Filipino students seemed to more readily give examples, to show love rather than attempt to explain it. I wondered if there were any cultural implications."

The quotes are from a book written by former UCC/Disciples missionary Thomas Montgomery-Fate, *Beyond the White Noise: Mission in a Multicultural World*, Chalice Press, 1997. The book is written from his perspective as a recent missionary to the Philippines. An excerpt, "The Rain Makes the Roof Sing," was printed in the June 1997 issue of *The Disciple* magazine.

An excerpt was also printed in *The Other Side* magazine, March-April 1997 issue, titled "*Beyond* the Multi-Culture; why 'celebrating diversity' isn't enough."

He is currently associate professor of English at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Jesus second

A recent poll has found that for two thirds of Americans Jesus has taken a back seat as the main focus for Christmas. The Barna Research Group said more than four in 10 (44%) said family time made Christmas important to them. Other responses included gift giving and having a day off from work (both 3%).

Code of ethics for travelers

1. Travel in a spirit of *humility* and with a genuine desire to meet and talk with the local people.

2. Be aware of the feelings of other people, thus preventing what might be offensive behavior. Remember this especially with *photography*.

3. Cultivate the habit of *listening and observing*, rather than merely hearing and seeing.

4. Realize that people in the country you visit often have time concepts and thought patterns different from your own. *Not inferior, just different.*

5. Discover the *enrichment* that comes from seeing another way of life, rather than looking for the "beach paradise" of the tourist posters.

6. Acquaint yourself with the local customs. *Respect local customs*; people will be happy to help you.

7. Cultivate the habit of asking questions instead of *knowing all the answers*.

8. Remember that you are one of thousands of visiting tourists. *Do not expect special privileges*.

9. If you really want a *home away from home*, why travel?

10. Spend wisely. Remember when shopping that the *bargain* you obtain is only possible because of the low wages paid to the maker.

11. Make no *promises* to local people unless you are certain you can fulfill them.

12. Reflect daily on your experiences; seek to *deepen your understanding*. "What enriches you may rob or violate others."

— Developed by the Christian Conference of Asia

Affirmations *(continued from p. 1)*

In an address on the Palestinian/Israeli situation at the Disciples' General Assembly called "The Demands of Reconciliation," Zaru — who was eight years old during the War of 1948 and has three grandchildren born during the Intifada — said, "Love of the enemies is a recognition that the enemy too is a child of God, for if we deny that, we are denying that they can make the very changes we are demanding of them." She also said, "The answer to peace is not exclusivism and hostility unending. It is rather sharing and community. There is no military option for the Palestinians and Israelis."

". . .the enemy too is a child of God, for if we deny that, we are denying that they can make the very changes we are demanding of them."

The award in Africa went to the Rev. Nestor Bompaka, (see "overseas service" article, p.1) a pastor of the Disciples of Christ Community in Zaire, who is currently working as a missionary pastor-developer of the new Disciples of Christ Church of the Congo in the country's capital, Brazzaville. He was sent to the Congo as a missionary of the Church of Christ in Zaire, with financial support coming from the Global Ministries of the UCC/Disciples. During the two years Bompaka has ministered in the Republic of the Congo, the new denomination has grown into 13 congregations spread from Point Noire on the Atlantic Ocean to the rain forests near the Zairean border.

The award in East Asia/Pacific went to the Rev. Kwok Nai Wang, a powerful Christian voice of conscience in Hong Kong. For years, he has been an outspoken leader among Hong Kong's Christian community and has challenged religious and secular authorities to live out Christ's teachings to care for the poor and powerless in their midst. In a political climate which has seen most mainline Hong Kong Christian organizations gradually adopt a more passive policy toward Beijing, Kwok and the Hong Kong Christian Institute continue to pose the hard questions concerning the civil, political and religious rights guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong after July 1.

In Europe, the award went to the Face-to-Face Interfaith Dialogue Center in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian, Muslim, Serbian (Orthodox) and Croatian (Catholic) communities — formerly noted for their rich cultural diversity and harmonious interrelationships — have as a result of a devastating war become divided physically and emotionally. Urgently needed are creative channels of communication to begin to resolve and heal the hostile attitudes and to rebuild understanding and trust. The Center's founder is a Catholic priest who, despite personal suffering during the war at the hands of the other communities, chose to work in predominantly Muslim Sarajevo and to maintain relationships with Bosnian Serbs — now a virtually separate political entity. With broad ecumenical support, the Center's ministry offers a glimmer of hope for reconciliation and renewal.

In Latin America/Caribbean the award went to Don Samuel Ruiz, Bishop of the Dioceses of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. He is recognized for his prophetic ministry and leadership in one of the poorest areas of Mexico and for his reconciliatory role in helping find a peaceful solution to the political and economic turmoil currently causing tension and instability in the region. Bishop Ruiz is also recognized for his leadership on behalf of Guatemalan refugees living in Southern Mexico for the past 15 years.

Finally, in Southern Asia, the award was given to Interfidei, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Interfidei is an organization of Muslim and Christian leaders in Southern Asia who have joined together to foster interfaith communication and reconciliation. It was conceived in the context of riots in Indonesia targeted at religious communities. Interfidei seeks to promote understanding and harmony between religious communities and eliminate inflammatory misunderstanding which can lead to riots and other religious conflicts.

CWS Hotline: Call 1-800/456-1310 for a recorded message about Church World Service disaster response activities.

Chronicle

MARRIAGE

Missionary in Hong Kong Bruce Van Voorhis to Rose Wu, general secretary of the Hong Kong Women Christian Council.

RETIREMENT

John Rasche, Japan, as of June 30, 1997 (37 years).

LOSSES TO THE FAMILY

Mary L. Floyd, who retired from the UCBWM in 1985 after more than 23 years of service, died June 21, 1997. She served as a donations clerk and before that held several positions in the accounting department.

Lavinia Scott, who served 42 years with the Board in South Africa, died July 10, 1997, in Claremont, CA, at the age of 90. She was principal of Inanda Seminary, a girls secondary school in Natal, for 33 years. In 1970 she taught Christian education at Adams United College of the Federal Theological Seminary, from where she retired in 1974.

Leah W. Swank, who spent 18 years in India, died July 10, 1997, in Pleasant Hill, TN. She went to India in 1950 and worked with women and children in Prakashpur, Orissa; in Khariar; and in Bhawanipatna. She was 73.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

FRED & MILDRED ALLRICH
Eileen D. Lischer

MARY ALBY BAUR
Otto Artopoeus
June Dewsberry
H. Telfer Mook
Arthur Von Gruenigen

VIOLA BRAUN
Otto Artopoeus
Richard Braun
Walter Brueggemann
Bernice Buehler
David F. Desmond
Vivian F. Hazel
Eileen D. Lischer
Shirley Tucker
Elenor Vieth
Eugene Wehrli

LILLARD W. CULVER
Richard Burrow
Myrbeth W. Culver

SELDON DICKINSON
Richard Braun

BARBARA L. GIBB
Arthur Gibb

MARY ELLEN HEINEMAN
H. Telfer Mook

PATTON LOCKWOOD
Chester L. Wagstaff

MRS. BERYL MASTERS
Robert B.V. Masters

MRS. NAVAM MILLS
H. Telfer Mook

HENRIETTA B. OUSLEY
Lawrence Gilley

LAVINA SCOTT
Lawrence Gilley
Allen Myrick
David Rubenstein
Richard Sales

RICHARD STENHOUSE
Lawrence Gilley

LELA WASSER SWANK
Otto Artopoeus
H. Telfer Mook

NEW RESOURCES: Kids' Pages, placemats, working children

From UCCR ...

"My family is sad. The trees in Nicaragua, our country, are disappearing." "Fact: Trees are disappearing so fast that all of the forests in Central America may be gone by the year 2000."

The quotes are part of a **Kids' Pages** packet about Central America, "Planting Seeds of Peace." The Central America resource includes

background information on issues and country profiles, and a resource list for children. Another Kids' Pages packet, "Africa: Bad News to Good News," is also available. The Africa resource focuses on hunger and hope, and has lessons through children's eyes on conflict resolution, debt relief and sustainable development.

Both packets, from United Church of Christ Resources, are $5 each; place orders at 800/325-7061. Material in the packets may be duplicated for classroom use.

New **Global Ministries placemats** are now available. The new mats feature a world map which shows where the UCC and the Disciples are engaged in common ministry. Symbols on the maps indicate locations of overseas staff, ecumenical relationships, disaster response and long-term development efforts, refugee and human rights ministries, interfaith relations and more. Order from UCCR, 800/325-7061, at $5 in shrink-wrapped packs of 50.

The five-part video **Sharing Life in Christ**, which highlights the work of UCC/Disciples' partnerships with individuals and communities around the world, is available at $15 plus postage from UCCR. It may also be borrowed from UCC Conference Resource Centers.

Each 8-minute section presents compelling stories and glimpses of Christian witness organized around sharing life in Christ and persons in mission, telling the Gospel story, healing God's continuing creation and interfaith dialogue.

From CWS ...

The United States and Somalia are the only nations in the world who have refused to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This fact is cited in the latest **Facts Have Faces** series from the Church World Service Office on Global Education, "Caution: Children at Work." Also noted is the problem that as many as 100,000 children (usually those of migrant workers) labor illegally in U.S. agriculture.

The six-page study/action guide explores the necessity of work for some children under the age of 15, its often harmful consequences, and responses by people of faith to this very complex issue. Prices are 30 cents for single copies, four for $1, and 20 cents each in quantities of 100-999.

The full color 1998 **CWS global calendar and greeting cards** are now available for $20 and $10 per set, respectively (both prices include shipping). Three calendars sent to the same address bring a free set of greeting cards. This will be the last year for the calendar. Order the Facts study guides, calendar and/or cards from CWS at P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515-0968.

Additional information on the fact sheet and other CWS/OGE materials is available on the CWS web site, <www.ncccusa.org/cws/issues.html>.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 12
Kutztown, PA

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION LI
2400 RIDGE RD
BERKELEY CA 94709-

Witnessing with open arms, hearts

By Raquel Rodriguez

February 9, 1997, was a day of celebration — both in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. At these two locations, Christians celebrated the manifestation of God's love. First Church of Christ in Longmeadow and the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH) had not known each other three years before, but their commitment to their faith and their witnessing to it brought them together.

It all started when First Church decided they needed to make their 200+-stair building accessible to all members. With 36% of the membership age 65 and older, the facility was not the best expression of a church welcoming to all ages. Congregants accepted this challenge as an opportunity to witness to their commitment to serve an inclusive community, and initiated a three-year capital campaign. But the money raised was not just for First Church. True to their 281-year-old tradition, part of the monies would go for mission — both within their community and overseas. The campaign was named Open ARMS (Accessibility, Restoration and Mission Support).

First Church decided they would like to help with a project in a country in Latin America/Caribbean. With the assistance of the Global Ministries Latin America Office, they identified Haiti (the poorest country in this hemisphere) and CONASPEH as the overseas recipients. CONASPEH will use the funds for an infrastructure to help house educational and training programs for economic skill development and to develop church leadership.

CONASPEH's constituency has been the victim of violence in many ways, including political and military repression and economic violence. Most victims are women and children who, along with this structural violence, have suffered domestic violence. CONASPEH is committed to empowering women to help them recover their potential for rebuilding Haiti and so make a difference in the future for their children.

The Longmeadow church chose as recipients of the other portion of their campaign for mission two organizations that try to work with precisely these issues — the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's Good Start Program and the Family Advocacy Center. Both try to prevent violence, particularly to women and children, by using new approaches and by trying to affirm those families in need.

Many people worked hard to make these mission projects happen. First Church decided to honor one person who had given his time and energy to see that everything turned out the way it was planned. He was honored not with a material gift, but by Longmeadow helping still *another* organization in the community — one that works with the homeless.

Participating in the worship service in which these accomplishments were celebrated was in itself a profound spiritual experience. This is the testimony of a church which has accepted the challenges of their own constituency without forgetting that God's love and mission is greater than themselves.

MONIES REALIZED FROM CAMPAIGN "OPEN ARMS" AT THE FIRST CHURCH of CHRIST, Longmeadow, MA, were used not only for building accessibility for church members but in mission both within the local community (children, family advocacy and the homeless) and with the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti. The Longmeadow building is now accessible at all three levels.

CONASPEH, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's Good Start Program, the Family Advocacy Center and First Church of Christ in Longmeadow have been linked by this witness. They will never be the same.

Rodriguez *is the Program Associate for the Latin America and the Caribbean Office, based in Indianapolis.*